(घ) स्वीकृत एक्सप्रैस हाइवेज के निर्माण और इस संबंध में अब तक प्राप्त उपलब्धियों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी०जी० वेंकटरामन): (क) गुजरात राज्य में अहमदाबाद से बड़ोदरा तक केवल एक ही एक्सप्रैस मार्ग के निर्माण के लिए अनुमोदन दिया गया है।

(ख) वर्ष 1996-97 में इस एक्सप्रैस मार्ग के लिए 10 करोड़ रु० का प्रावधान है।

(ग) इस एक्सप्रैस मार्ग के निर्माण की अनुमानित लागत लगभग 4.29 करोड़ रु० प्रति किलोमीटर है।

(घ) इस एक्सप्रैस मार्ग के निर्माण के लिए जून, 1986 में अनुमोदन दिया गया था। लगभग 49% सड़क कार्य और 72% पुल कार्य अब तक पूरे कर लिए गए हैं।

Proposal to Enact a Law Banning the Sale of Lottery Tickets

1716. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan High Court had observed that Government should consider enacting a law banning the sale of lottery tickets throughout the country, since this is a social evil;

(b) if so, whether Government had also observed that it is not desirable that the revenue should be raised by encouraging gambling and immorality in society;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to enact a law banning the sale of lottery tickets throughout the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Though the Central Government does not conduct any lottery of its own, it has, over a period of time, sent guidelines to the State Governments for regulating the lottery trade. It is essentially for the State Governments to improve the monitoring and implementation of laws pertaining to the conduct of lotteries, gambling, etc. and to modify the laws depending on their impact on the socio-economic life of the people. In this context, it was felt that as the Supreme Court had already by an interim order on 21.4.1994 regulated the lottery trade considerably, its final judgement may be awaited before considering enactment of a legislation.

Formation of Indian Ocean Trade Zone

1717. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestion of ASSOCHAM that a study be undertaken on the formation of special trade zone comprising countries in the Indian Ocean zone; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is positively inclined to consider suggestions for cooperation among the Indian Ocean Rim countries, including in the area of trade. There are ongoing contacts to explore the possibility and scope of such cooperation.

India participated in the first International Meeting of Experts from seven Indian Ocean Rim Countries (viz. Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore and South Africa) convened by Mauritius in March, 1995. The meeting agreed on the principles, objectives and direction of the future action programme of an Indian Ocean Rim association for regional cooperation to promote cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology, tourism and human resource